

12/20/70

Dear Paul,

I'm aware that a "take my word for it" argument from me carries no more weight with you than your "so there" reasoning did with me. And I know your back is up over what everyone else considers your melon nonsense. However, while I feel that under the circumstances, I ought not give you the detail, I report a fact I assure you is a fact that you can believe or not. I've had a chance to study another aspect of the Z work being done for me on the or with the excellent copy I now have. Things formerly not clear, not even visible, are now both.

As you know, I've long believed that if there was but a single head shot, it was from the front. But, I've never said the right front. Now I think I can make a solid case for both - the front and the right.

There is another area in which I cannot yet make a definitive interpretation. It seems to be entirely inconsistent with a shot from the rear causing what we ~~xxx~~ see in Z 313, but this I cannot assert positively, lacking the scientific knowledge. I expect, in the near future, to be able to do this. But I now have a print of this in which I can see what we never saw before. Of two things there now remains no doubt: the explosion was not as described and did not blow out what we were told was immediately blown out. If you had ever made a real study of the film you'd have known one of these things anyway. What I now have is corroboration, as of the instant of the explosion.

I again urge what I have always urged on you with regard to this project.

Hastily,

HW

CONFIDENTIAL- Not for use - to Dick, Gary Howard only:

The pattern of spray at the head leaves a void near and in front of the temple and the temple can be seen to be still intact. The ear is still clear, as is the head above and behind it, eliminating the possibility that these areas fell back into place after the explosion. ~~xx~~With a series of color treatments, the more vertical of the lines of spray becomes the most pronounced, the most vivid. I do not interpret this. With isolation of the head in a print of the film that zooms in on the head - this is a Z head print only - the ~~right~~ leftward second motion is more emphatic. It is still first back and then left, but the violence of the move to the left is accentuated. The short forward motion right after passing the lamppost is still clear to me, if unexplained. I await the opportunity of others I can trust to examine this. But there is no doubt that a remaining part of the right front of the head blocks spray of tissue from it, leaving a void in that part of the pattern. This enlargement is so great one can see the individual droplets of matter, small as they are!